

COTON DE TULÉAR

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/05/2000

ORIGIN

Madagascar. (Patronage: France)

UTILISATION

Companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Introduced to France long before its official recognition in 1970, this newcomer from Madagascar quickly acquired a prominent position amongst the companion dogs of this country. Today it is widespread all over the world.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

Small, long-haired, companion dog with a white cotton-textured coat, with dark, round, eyes and a lively, intelligent expression.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The height at the withers in relationship to the length of the body is 2 : 3.
- The length of the head in relationship to that of the body is 2 : 5.
- The length of the skull in relationship to that of the muzzle is 9 : 5.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Of a happy temperament, stable, very sociable with humans and with other dogs; it adapts perfectly to all ways of life. The temperament of the Coton de Tuléar is one of the main characteristics of the breed.

HEAD

Short, seen from above, triangular.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Seen from the front, slightly rounded; rather wide in relation to its length. Superciliary arches only slightly developed. Slight frontal groove. Occipital protuberance and crest only slightly accentuated. Well-developed zygomatic arches.

Stop: Slight.

Facial Region:

Nose: In the extension of the nasal bridge; black; brown is tolerated; nostrils wide open.

Muzzle: Straight.

Lips: Fine, tight, of the same colour as the nose.

Cheeks: Lean.

Jaws and teeth: Teeth well-aligned. Scissor bite, pincer bite, or inverted bite, without losing contact. The absence of the PM1 is not penalised; the M3s are not taken into consideration.

Eyes:

Rather rounded, dark, lively, wide apart; the rims of the eyelids are well pigmented with black or brown according to the colour of the nose.

Ears:

Pendulous, triangular, set high on the skull, fine at the tips; carried close to the cheeks, reaching the corners of the lips. Covered with white hairs or with some traces of light grey (mixture of white and black hairs giving a light grey appearance) or red-roan (mixture of white and fawn hairs giving a red-roan appearance - lemon).

NECK

Well-muscled, slightly arched. Neck well set into shoulders. Proportion of neck to body is 1 : 5. Clean neck with no dewlap.

BODY

Topline: Very slightly convex. Dog longer than high.

Withers: Only slightly pronounced.

Back: Strong back, topline very slightly arched.

Loin: Well-muscled.

Croup: Oblique, short, and muscled.

Chest: Well-developed, well let down to elbow level, long. Ribs well-sprung.

Underline and belly: Tucked-up but not excessively.

TAIL

Low set, in the axis of the spinal column.

- At rest: carried below the hock, the tip being raised.
- On the move: Carried "gaily", curved over the back, with the point towards the nape, the withers, the back, or the loin. In dogs with abundant coat, the tip may rest on the dorsal-lumbar region.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: The front legs are upright.

Shoulder: Oblique shoulder, muscled. Scapulo-humeral angle [*ed. point of shoulder*] about 120°.

Upper arm: The length of the upper arm corresponds approximately to the shoulder blade.

Forearm: Lower arms vertical and parallel, well-muscled, with good bone. The length of the lower arm corresponds approximately to the upper arm.

Carpus (wrist): A continuation of the line of the lower arm.

Metacarpus (pastern): Strong, seen in profile, sloping very slightly.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: The hind legs are upright. Though dewclaws are not sought after, their presence is not penalised.

Upper thigh: Strongly muscled; coxo-femoral angle [*ed. hip joint*] about 80°.

Lower thigh: Oblique; forming, with the femur, an angle of about 120°.

Hock joint: Dry, well-defined, angle of the hock about 160°.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Vertical.

FEET

Small, round, toes tight, arched; pads pigmented.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free and flowing, without covering a lot of ground; topline retained on the move. No sign of uneven movement.

SKIN

Fine, stretched tight over all the body; although of pink colour, it can be pigmented.

COAT

This is one of the main characteristics of the breed from which its very name derives. Very soft and supple, with the texture of cotton, never hard or rough, the coat is dense, profuse, and can be very slightly wavy.

COLOUR

- Ground colour is white.
- A few slight shadings of light grey (mixture of white and black hairs) or of red-roan (mixture of white and fawn hairs), are permitted on the ears.

* On the other parts of the body, such shadings can be tolerated, if they do not alter the general appearance of white coat. They are, however, not sought after.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 26cm – 28cm (approx. 10" – 11"). Tolerance of 2cm above and 1cm below.

Females: 23cm – 25cm (approx. 9" – 10"). Tolerance of 2cm above and 1cm below.

Weight:

Males: 4kg – 6kg.

Females: 3.5kg – 5kg.

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Severe faults:

- Skull: Flat or too domed, narrow.
- Muzzle: Disproportion between skull and muzzle.
- Eyes: Light, excessively almond-shaped; entropion, ectropion, prominent eyes.
- Ears: Too short, with insufficient length of hair; ears folding backwards (rose ear).
- Neck: Too short, too stuffy in shoulder, too slender.
- Topline: Too arched, sway-backed.
- Croup: Horizontal, narrow.
- Shoulder: Straight.
- Limbs: Turned inwards or outwards; out at elbows; hocks wide set or too close; straight angulation.
- Hair: Too short, too wavy, curly.
- Pigmentation of eyelids or lips: Partially lacking or too light; discoloured nose, with unpigmented areas.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Lack of type (insufficient breed characteristics, which means that the animal on the whole does not sufficiently resemble other examples of the breed).
- Size and weight outside the requirements and tolerance of the standard.
- Foreface: Bridge of nose convex.
- Eyes: Bulging, with signs of dwarfism; too light; wall eyes.
- Ears: Pricked or semi-pricked.
- Tail: Not reaching to hock; set high, completely curled (forming a tight ring); carried flat on the back or against the thighs; carried candle like; tail-less.
- Hair: Atypical, tightly curled, woolly, silky.
- Colour: Heavily marked; any marking of a definite black.
- Pigmentation: Total lack of pigment on eye rims, nose, or lips.
- Overshot or undershot mouth with lack of contact between the incisors; vertical gaping of the incisors.
- Absence of teeth other than the PM1 or the M3s.

©Copyright FCI – Reprinted with permission

The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.



FCI Standard No 283: COTON DE TULÉAR

FCI Classification: Group 9: Companion and Toy dogs

Section 1.2. Coton de Tuléar

Without Working Trial